

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02

INR-07 IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 NSC-05

INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 ERDE-00 /086 W

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O R 241655Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5877

INFO USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 15244

E. O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MBFR PARM NATO UK GW BE FR

SUBJECT: MBFR: TRILATERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 23:

DATA EXCHANGE, RED VS BLUE DATA, AND UNIT

REDUCTIONS

REF: A) LONDON 15175; B) STATE 235251; C) STATE

234762

1. SUMMARY: THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS REFTEL A, WHICH
REPORTED MBFR TRILATERAL DISCUSSION OF FRENCH PROBLEM.
ON STRATEGY FOR A DATA DISCUSSION, UK AND FRG AGREED
THAT IT IS NOT URGENT THAT SPC UNDERTAKE A DETAILED
DATA STUDY, ALTHOUGH CIRCULATION OF "PHILOSOPHICAL"
DATA PAPER COULD BE HELPFUL. BOTH UK AND FRG OPPOSED
TABLING BLUE DATA ONLY AND A COMPROMISE WAS WORKED
OUT THAT PROTECTS OUR POSITION ON THIS. BOTH WERE

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UNHAPPY AT OUR DECISION TO INDICATE TO SOVIETS THAT

A MAJORITY OF US REDUCTIONS WOULD BE IN FORM OF UNITS. THEY ACCEPTED POINT THAT FORM OF REDUCTIONS IS OUR DECISION TO MAKE, BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD GIVE US FURTHER VIEWS ON TIMING. END SUMMARY.

2. DATA. US DELEGATION OUTLINED OUR VIEWS ON FIRST STEPS IN A DATA DISCUSSION WITH THE EAST, ALONG LINES OF OUR PAPER (REF C). WHICH WE PASSED OUT TO BRITISH AND GERMANS. WE NOTED THAT OUR THOUGHTS ON THIS WERE CLOSE TO THOSE EXPRESSED IN THE BRITISH PAPER. WE INDICATED WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO UNDERTAKE A DETAILED DATA STUDY IN THE SPC AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY SINCE WE COULD NOT NOW PREDICT HOW A RESOLUTION OF THE FRENCH PROBLEM WOULD AFFECT OUR STRATEGY IN A DATA DISCUSSION. WE BELIEVE THAT EXISTING GUIDANCE CAN BE USED TO CARRY THE WEST THROUGH THE NEXT ROUND IN VIENNA, AND EVEN WELL INTO THE ROUND AFTER THAT, IF NECESSARY.

3. THE GERMANS CIRCULATED THEIR OWN PAPER ON A DATA DISCUSSION. IT PARALLELED US AND UK IDEAS ON CONDUCT OF THE INITIAL PHASE, BUT WAS PREMISED ON ASSUMPTION THE EAST COULD BE INDUCED TO BEGIN DATA DISCUSSION WITHOUT REVISED WESTERN DATA HAVING FIRST BEEN PRESENTED, USING DATA TABLED IN 1973 AS REFERENCE POINT FOR WESTERN FORCE LEVELS. RUTH SAID THE FRG BELIEVES THAT LONGER-TERM SPC DATA STUDY IS ALSO EVENTUALLY REQUIRED TO CLARIFY THE WEST'S STRATEGY IN DISCUSSING DATA IN VIENNA. ISSUE OF TIMING FOR SUCH AN EFFORT WAS NOT PRESSED BY GERMANS.

4. REGARDING PROBLEM OF DISPARATE NATIONAL ACCOUNTING METHODS FOR MILITARY FORCES WITHIN NATO, WHICH BRITISH HAD RAISED IN THEIR PAPER AS A POTENTIAL WEAK POINT IN ANY PRESENTATION OF NEW WESTERN DATA, WE GAINED GENERAL AGREEMENT FOR OUR POSITION THAT WE COULD PLAUSIBLY AND SUCCESSFULLY STICK TO THE FORMULATION THAT OUR NUMBER WAS THE ACTUAL FIGURE FOR ACTIVE DUTY FORCES AS OF THE DATE GIVEN.

5. BRITISH (WILBERFORCE) EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR
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A NATO MBFR WORKING GROUP STUDY ON DATA DISAGGREGATION, BUT CEDED TO FRG AND US OPPOSITION ON THIS.

6. CONCENSUS ON THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS THAT A "MORE PHILOSOPHICAL" DATA PAPER MIGHT USEFULLY BE CIRCULATED IN THE SPC IN LIEU OF A FORMAL SPC DATA STUDY. WE STATED OUR VIEW THAT SUCH A PAPER SHOULD NOT GIVE NEW GUIDANCE TO THE AHG, BUT SHOULD PROVIDE A CLEARER

UNDERSTANDING OF A DATA DISCUSSION. (THE BRITISH AGREED ON SEPTEMBER 24 TO PREPARE A DRAFT PAPER ALONG THESE LINES, COMBINING PORTIONS OF THE THREE NATIONAL PAPERS DISCUSSED AT THE TRILATERAL.)

7. RED DATA. BRITISH STRONGLY OPPOSED OUR POSITION THAT BLUE DATA ONLY SHOULD BE TABLED AT THE OUTSET IN VIENNA, WITH THE QUESTION OF TABLING RED DATA LEFT FOR LATER DECISION. WILBERFORCE SAID THE UK BELIEVED IT

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IMPORTANT TO CONTEST THE CHALLENGE INHERENT IN THE EASTERN FIGURES TABLED JUNE 10, IMPLYING THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT DISPARITY BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT MANPOWER. BRITISH BELIEVED THIS COULD BE DONE IN A

WAY THAT WOULD NOT BE CONFRONTATIONAL, OR LEAD TO ACCUSATIONS OF BAD FAITH IN VIENNA. GERMANS APPEARED TO BE SPLIT ON THIS ISSUE, WITH BEHREND (FRG REPRESENTATIVE IN VIENNA) NOTING DIFFICULTY IN CHANGING AD HOC GROUP'S JUNE DECISION TO TABLE BOTH RED AND BLUE DATA; GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY REP FAVORING BLUE ONLY; AND ROTH NOT TAKING A CLEAR POSITION.

8. SOLUTION REACHED ON THIS AGENDA ITEM WAS THAT DRAFT SPC GUIDANCE TO AHG WOULD INCLUDE BOTH RED AND BLUE, LEAVING DECISION ON TIMING OF TABLING RED DATA UP TO

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LATTER. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, ARGUE OUR POSITION WHEN MATTER IS RAISED IN AHG.

9. UNIT REDUCTIONS. WE STATED OUR DESIRE TO INFORM SOVIETS THAT WHILE OUR POSITION RESERVING RIGHT TO MAKE REDUCTIONS IN ANY WAY WE SAW FIT HAD NOT CHANGED, AS A PRACTICAL MATTER A MAJORITY OF US REDUCTIONS WOULD BE IN THE FORM OF UNITS, LIKELY INCLUDING COMBAT UNITS. TEXT OF PROPOSED US STATEMENT TO THE EAST (FROM PARA 8 REF B) WAS PASSED AROUND. BRITISH (WILBERFORCE) SAID THEY UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY OUR SUBSTANTIVE RATIONALE, AND AGREED WITH IT, BUT COULD NOT UNDERSTAND OUR NEGOTIATING RATIONALE FOR BRINGING UP THE MATTER AT THIS TIME. AT LATER DATE IT MIGHT BE USED TO BUY SOMETHING FROM THE EAST. GERMANS ALSO OPPOSED OUR PLAN, EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT FOR US TO RAISE MODALITIES OF REDUCTION COULD BECOME A PRECEDENT FOR ALLIED REDUCTIONS IN PHASE II. BEHREND SUGGESTED THAT LAST SENTENCE OF OUR PROPOSED STATEMENT NOT REFER TO ITS INAPPLICABILITY AS A PRECEDENT, WHICH HE CONSIDERED A WEAK ARGUMENT, BUT RATHER POINT OUT THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO COMMIT OURSELVES IN AN MBFR AGREEMENT TO ANY PARTICULAR MANNER OF REDUCING OUR FORCES.

10. WE POINTED OUT THAT IF, AS SEEMS QUITE PROBABLE, WE MUST GET THROUGH AT LEAST THE FIRST PART OF ROUND TEN WITHOUT TABLING DATA OR BEING ABLE TO DISCUSS EASTERN COUNTING RULES, TAKING THIS STEP ON UNIT REDUCTIONS COULD HELP CONSIDERABLY.

11. DESPITE THEIR OBJECTIONS, BOTH BRITISH AND GERMANS CLEARLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT REDUCING BY UNITS WAS A DECISION WHOLLY WITHIN OUR RIGHTS TO MAKE. THEY TOOK TO STUDY MATTER AND GIVE US FURTHER VIEWS ON TIMING.

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